1819. *[Transferred to the 26th March,* 1992].

Quarrying of Granite Stones

1820. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge quantum of granite stone is being quarried from hills in the country for export purposes;

(b) if so, whether this will affect he ecology of the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to prevent the export of unpolished granite stones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Granite mining is being carried out in consonance with various provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules of States and also of laws relating to environmental protection.

(c) There is no proposal to ban export of unpolished granite stones.

Export of Sugar

1821. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of-COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to entrust the export of sugar to more than one agency;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the price of sugar in the current year; and

(d) if so, what would be the share of the producers out of this increase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Opening up of more channels for the export of sugar may help build up our exports of sugar.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Import Intensity of Indian Exports

1822. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the import intensity of Indian exports specially engineering products, chemicals and drugs and gems and jewellery in 1989-90;

(b) how it compares with 1980-81;

(c) whether there is an apreciable rise in the import intensity of manufactured exports during above period; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curtail rising import content in exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) it is difficult to precisely estimate import intensity of exports except for sectors which are highly export oriented and where there is a direct and quantifiable link between imports and exports such as gems and jewellery sector. However, according to a study conducted by the Export-Import Bank of India on the basis of import licences issued to registered exporters under export promotion schemes, the import intensity of manufactured exports, excluding gems and jewellery increased from 32% in 1980-81 to 42% in 1989-90. The import intensity in terms of total exports has increased from 21% in 1980-81 to 38% in 1989-90. The study, which was based on responses received from major firms reveal that the import intensity of engineering products was 28%, chemicals and drugs was 31% and gems and jewellery was 78% in 1989-90. The sector-wise details for the corresponding period 1980-81 are not available.

(d) The Government's trade policy provides greater incentive to sectors having lower import intensity. This is reflected in the recently introduced Partial convertibility Scheme of the Rupee which encourages exports and discourages import through the market premium on official rate of exchange.